

# Idaho Currents

## Governor Convenes Idaho Water Summit



**Governor Butch Otter addresses the Idaho Water Summit where he named the new director for the Idaho Department of Water Resources (see page 4). (Photo by Bob McLaughlin)**

With less than four months into his first term, Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter followed through with a campaign promise to conduct a water summit to try to resolve a decade-long dispute over the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA).

The aquifer is a Lake Erie-sized underground water source that lies beneath 10,000 square miles of southern Idaho from Ashton to King Hill. It contains more than 200 million acre-feet of water, which is enough to cover the entire state with four feet of water.

An estimated 300 people attended the summit. Approximately 100 were invited guests. The rest

included elected officials, technical experts and interested public. The summit provided an opportunity for the invited representatives from the ESPA and other areas of the state to learn about the ongoing challenges facing water users in Southern Idaho.

"I think they all came away with a much better understanding of ESPA hydrology, management options, legal issues and water user perspectives," says Hal Anderson, Planning and Technical Services Division administrator with the Idaho Department of Water Resources. "CDR Associates, facilitation consultants to the Idaho Water Resource Board, also had time on the addenda to explain the Board planning process, strategy, and time line."

The summit also provided an important introduction for the Water Resource Board ESPA management Plan Advisory Committee. This committee is broadly based and includes some that have been engaged in ESPA water issues for a long time and others who have not.

"Generations from now, I hope people will look to today and say that was the beginning of our healthy life," Otter said at the conclusion of the summit.

The governor also said he expected summit participants to continue focused discussions toward resolving immediate water issues and did not rule out the possibility of reconvening the summit to reinforce broader aquifer health goals.

"It may be important to come back once again and refresh ourselves on our single focus," he added.

# Idaho Energy Star Performers Receive Awards

Four Energy Star builders and trade allies in Idaho were recognized during the First Annual Northwest Energy Star® Homes Awards and honored at the 2007 Idaho Builder Energy Conference in March in Boise.

Awards were presented to:

- Holton Homes, Nampa – Regional Energy Star NW Home Builder and Idaho State Large Home Builder
- OnPoint, LLC, Boise – Regional Home Performance Specialist
- Western Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc., Boise – Regional HVAC/Performance Testing Contractor
- MarKar Design and Construction, Inc., Meridian – Idaho State Small Home Builder



**These two Treasure Valley homes, constructed by Holton Homes, were built to Energy Star standards to meet guidelines for energy efficiency set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (Holton Homes photos)**

In addition, six builders were inducted into the Idaho Energy Star Builder Circle of Excellence: Boise City Building Company, Bruno Built Inc., Creekside Custom Homes, Fireside Homes Inc., Horizon Development, and Seidl Home Company. Currently there are 230 Idaho Energy Star builder partners in the state.

## Energy Star homes

“Homes with the Energy Star label are at least 30 percent more efficient than homes built to standard state energy code,” says Ken Eklund, principal energy specialist with the Energy Division. A total of 487 Idaho homes earned the Energy Star label in 2006.

Each home is inspected and tested by a certified Home Performance Specialist to confirm that it meets the Energy Star Northwest specifications and that air ducts and efficient equipment are installed correctly for peak performance.

Energy Star was introduced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as a voluntary labeling program designed to identify and promote energy-efficient products in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, says Eklund. The Idaho Energy Division certified the first Idaho Energy Star home in 1998.

The program is now a joint venture with the Energy Division, Idaho Power Company, Avista, several consumer-owned utility companies, and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, a non-profit organization working to encourage the development and adoption of energy-efficient products and services.

Additional information about the Energy Star program in Idaho is available at [www.idahoenergystar.gov](http://www.idahoenergystar.gov) or by calling the Idaho Energy Hotline, **1-800-334-SAVE**.



# DOE Grants Fund Industrial Pump Assessments

Some of Idaho's largest industrial facilities are saving millions of kilowatt-hours of electricity as the result of extensive testing and implementing energy-saving recommendations by the Idaho Energy Division.

For the past two years, Jeff Brooks, energy specialist with the Energy Division, has been conduct-



**Jeff Brooks with the Energy Division takes pressure readings on a blancher system at JR Simplot's Grand Forks, ND, potato processing facility. (Energy Division photo)**

ing industrial pump system assessments for several industrial facilities, both in Idaho and at out-of-state locations.

"The cumulative electricity demand and energy savings results thus far amount to more than 650 kilowatts of peak demand reduction and 8.3 million kilowatt hours saved annually," says Brooks.

"For comparison, the cumulative electricity demand and energy savings achieved are comparable to the total demand of two average sized supermarkets, and roughly equal to the annual energy consumption of four supermarkets, or 275 Idaho homes."

## In-kind funding

In October 2005 the Energy Division received a \$90,000 "Industries of the Future" grant from the

U.S. Department of Energy. The grant included J.R. Simplot and the Amalgamated Sugar companies as Industrial Grant partners that provided "in-kind" funding for grant activities, personnel training and time, new equipment expenditures, or other associated costs.

Last year the Energy Division received another \$90,000 grant to continue these activities with new industrial partners – Con Agra (Lamb Weston) and Davis Company Foods International, the parent company of the Jerome Cheese Company.

A portion of the first grant was used to purchase sophisticated hydraulic, electric, and mechanical measurement equipment that Brooks uses to establish the performance characteristics of large industrial pumping systems.

## Pump assessments

At each facility Brooks assesses four or five pumping systems over a three- or four-day period. Using the information from the tests, the system is analyzed against its theoretical performance capability and its ideal operating potential – that is, if the system were replaced with new state-of-the-art equipment. Brooks also uses DOE's Pump System Assessment Tool software that estimates theoretical energy savings.



**A mechanical pen points to a failure crack on a 250 horsepower pump impeller. The unit was replaced with a new pump that is better designed for the application. (Energy Division photo)**

Using assessment data, Brooks discusses the findings with the client along with recommended improvements, and estimated energy savings and economic impacts for each recommendation. These reports are then used

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# Governor Names IDWR Director

After serving as interim director for three and one-half months, David R. Tuthill, Jr., was appointed Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter.

The governor made the announcement during the Idaho Water Summit in Burley on March 17.

"We can't achieve long-term solutions with temporary, interim initiatives. And we can't achieve long-term solutions with a temporary, interim director," said Otter.

During his time as interim director, Tuthill has closely coordinated with the Governor in preparing for the Idaho Water Summit, worked with the Idaho Legislature throughout the 2007 session to successfully pass legislation supported by the agency, and formed a strong working relationship with staff and the Idaho Water Resource Board.

"Low runoff forecasts for 2007 have made this a particularly difficult spring, as we deal with calls for water throughout the state," Tuthill says.

Tuthill oversees an agency of about 200 employees, including about 135 in the State Office and about 65 in the four regional offices. During his 31 years at IDWR, Tuthill has served as Adjudication Section supervisor, Payette Adjudication supervisor, Water Allocation Section supervisor, Western



**IDWR Director Dave Tuthill and his Administrative Assistant, Victoria Wigle, pause during a staff meeting. Tuthill has been with the Department for 31 years and Wigle has been administrative assistant to the Director since 2002. (Photo by Diane Stroup)**

Regional Office manager, Adjudication Bureau chief and Water Management Division administrator.

Tuthill has a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering from Colorado State University, 1974; a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado, 1975; and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Idaho (Boise), 2002.

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as the basis for deciding whether or not to pursue the recommendations. Brooks also contracts with, and oversees, consultants who provide steam system assessments for the plants as part of the overall grant contract.

During the past year Brooks completed assessments at nine plants and traveled to Simplot facilities

in North Dakota and Wyoming. These trips are coordinated with other state energy offices in a peer exchange effort to show how the Energy Division works with its client partners. Additional visits are planned in 2007 in Utah, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wyoming, as well as more Idaho facilities.

